

U.S. Department of Justice

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Environment and Natural Resources Division

BSG:MCE/cac 90-11-3-08764

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August 31, 2007

VIA OVERNIGHT FEDEX

Kevin R. Murray Chapman & Cutler, LLP 201 South Main Street, Suite 2000 Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801) 533-0066

Re:

United States v. United Park City Mines Co., No. 2:07-cv-00642-BSJ

(Richardson Flat Tailings Site)

Dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed is a copy of the Complaint and Notice of Lodging (with lodged Consent Decree) in the above-captioned case, which were filed on August 28, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This constitutes notice from the United States that the Consent Decree has been lodged and service of the complaint as contemplated by Paragraph 102, of the Consent Decree.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mark Elmer at (303) 844-1352.

Sincerely.

Corrine A. Christen, CP

Paralegal Specialist

Enclosures

cc: Peggy Livingston, Esq. (EPA)

I gave the copy that was enclosed with this with the signatures of all but court) to Maureen O' Reilly 10-24-07. Wignatures of all but court) to Maureen O' Reilly 10-24-07. I also your hu an extra copy of 47 with the Judgis signature. I will send bring the copy with the J's signature to the Superfund Repords Center. PL

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FILED U.S. DISTRICT COURT

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Attorneys for the United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

UNITED PARK CITY MINES COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

Case: 2:07cv00642

Assigned To : Jenkins, Bruce S.

Assign. Date: 8/28/2007

Description: USA v. United Park City

Mines

The United States of America, by authority of the Attorney General, and at the request of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), states for its complaint:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This is a civil action under Sections 106 and 107 of the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607. The United States seeks injunctive relief and recovery of response costs that it has incurred since March 2, 2006 and that it will incur in connection with the Richardson Flat Tailings Site near Park City, Utah (the "Site").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606, 9607, and 9613(b), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345.
- 3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) and 42 U.S.C. § 9613(b).

DEFENDANT

4. Defendant United Park City Mines Company ("UPCM") is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 900 Main Street, Suite 6107, Park City, Utah 84060.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Site

- 5. The Richardson Flat Tailings Site consists of approximately 160 acres outside Park City, Utah immediately southeast of the junction of U.S. Highway 40 and Utah Highway 248.
- 6. From the late 1800s through approximately 1982, the Site was actively used as a mine tailings impoundment.

- 7. Defendant United Park City Mines Company ("UPCM") has owned the Site since its incorporation in 1953.
- 8. In 1970, UPCM leased the Site along with other mining-related properties to Park City Ventures, a Utah general partnership between the Anaconda Company (now part of Atlantic Richfield Company ("ARCO")) and ASARCO, Inc.
- 9. On a portion of the property leased from UPCM, Park City Ventures constructed and operated a mill, known as the Ontario Mill. Between June 1975 and January 1978, the Ontario Mill generated tailings that were deposited at the Richardson Flat Tailings Site.
- 10. In August 1979, Park City Ventures transferred its lease with UPCM (including the Ontario Mill and the Richardson Flat Tailings Site) to Noranda Exploration Inc., who in turn sold it to Noranda Mining Inc. ("Noranda"). Noranda operated the Ontario Mill from August 1980 through August 1981, generating tailings that were deposited at the Site. In April 1982, UPCM terminated the lease.
 - 11. There are approximately 7 million tons of mine tailings currently on the Site.

B. EPA Response Actions

- 12. In the mid-1980s, EPA conducted an initial investigation of the Site, which revealed that the Site (including the tailings and surface and groundwater) was contaminated with hazardous substances, including heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and zinc.
- 13. On June 24, 1988, EPA proposed to add the Site to the National Priorities List ("NPL"). This initial proposal was withdrawn, and on February 7, 1992, EPA re-proposed adding the Site to the NPL. No final action has been taken with respect to this proposed listing.

- 14. On September 28, 2000, EPA and UPCM entered into an Administrative Order on Consent ("AOC"). The AOC required UPCM to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study ("RI/FS") at the Site.
- 15. In September 2004, UPCM completed both the remedial investigation and feasibility study.
- 16. EPA published its proposed remedial action plan on September 5, 2004.

 Following public comment, EPA issued a record of decision ("ROD") for the Site on July 6, 2005, which describes EPA's selected remedy.

CERCLA LIABILITY

- 17. The Site is a "facility" within the meaning of Sections 101(9) and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(9) and 9607(a).
- 18. The substances contaminating soils and waters at the Site are "hazardous substances," within the meaning of Sections 101(14), 104(a), and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(14), 9604(a), and 9607(a).
- 19. There was a "release" or "threatened release" of hazardous substances into the "environment" at and from the Site, within the meaning of Sections 101(8), 101(14), 101(22), 104(a), and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(8), 9601(14), 9601(22), 9604(a), and 9607(a).
- 20. Hazardous substances were "disposed" of at the Site, within the meaning of Sections 101(14), 101(29), and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(14), 9601(29), and 9607(a), on numerous occasions from the late 1800s until at least 1982.

- 21. Defendant UPCM is a "person" within the meaning of Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).
- 22. Defendant UPCM is the current "owner or operator" of the Site within the meaning of Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), and is therefore liable for all costs incurred by the United States as a result of the response action at the Site pursuant to CERCLA Section 107(a)(1).
- 23. Defendant UPCM was an "owner or operator" of the Site within the meaning of Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), at the time of disposal of hazardous substances at the Site and is therefore liable for all costs incurred by the United States as a result of the response action at the Site pursuant to CERCLA Section 107(a)(2).

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF INJUNCTIVE RELIEF UNDER SECTION 106(a) OF CERCLA

- 24. Paragraphs 1 through 23 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 25. EPA has determined that there may be an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment because of an actual or threatened release of hazardous substances at and from the Site.
- 26. Pursuant to Section 106(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9606(a), Defendant is liable to perform certain response actions selected by EPA to abate the conditions at the Site that present or may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF COST RECOVERY UNDER SECTION 107(a) OF CERCLA

- 27. Paragraphs 1 through 26 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 28. The United States has incurred and will continue to incur response costs, as defined in Section 101(25) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(25), as a result of the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at the Site.
- 29. The response costs were incurred by the United States in a manner not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan, 40 C.F.R. Part 300.
- 30. Defendant is liable to the United States for the payment of all costs incurred (since March 2, 2006) and to be incurred by the United States as a result of the response actions taken at the Site pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. Ordering Defendant to perform certain response actions selected by EPA in order to abate the conditions at the Site;
- B. Ordering Defendant to pay all costs incurred by the United States since March 2, 2006 in response to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or from the Site;
 - C. Awarding the United States its costs and disbursements in this action; and
- D. Granting the United States such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

RONALD J. TENPAS
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Environment and Natural Resources Division

W. BENJAMIN FISHEROW

Deputy Chief

Environmental Enforcement Section

MARK C. ELMER, Trial Attorney

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Salt Lake City, UT 84111

OF COUNSEL:

MARGARET ("PEGGY") J. LIVINGSTON Senior Enforcement Attorney U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-L) Denver, CO 80202-1129

Attorneys for the United States

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Organ for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			Attorneys (If Known)	OLPU	TY CLERK
Daniel D. Price, U.S. Attorney's Office, 185 S. State St., Suite 400, S			Kevin R. Murray.		, 1000 Kearns Bldg., 136
	01) 325-3234 AND Mark C. Elmer,	• • •		Salt Lake City, UT 841	
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Assign. Date: 8/28/2007 Description: USA v. United Park City

Hines

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FILED
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

2001 AUG 28 P 3 46

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V. Civil Action No.

UNITED PARK CITY MINES COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case: 2:07cv00642
Assigned To: Jenkins, Bruce S.
Assign. Date: 8/28/2007
Description: USA v. United Park City Mines

NOTICE OF LODGING OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

The United States has filed a Complaint pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a), for recovery of response costs and implementation of remedial action at the Richardson Flat Tailings Site ("Site"), located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Park City, Utah.

By way of this Notice, the United States notifies the Court that the United States has lodged a proposed Consent Decree in this matter (the "Decree"). The Decree, which is attached as Exhibit A, would resolve the United States' claims against Defendant for recovery of response costs and implementation of remedial action relating to the Site. The ultimate entry of the Decree would end this litigation.

The Court should not sign the Decree at this time. Instead, the Decree should remain lodged with the Court while the United States provides an opportunity for public comment in accordance with CERCLA Section 122(d)(2), 42 U.S.C. § 9622(d)(2), and the policy of the

Department of Justice, 28 C.F.R. Part 50.7.

The Department of Justice will publish in the <u>Federal Register</u> a notice that the Decree has been lodged with the Court. The Notice will solicit public comment for a period of 30 days. During the comment period, no action is required by the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

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